

Political Tidbits

Bush offers plan to slow spending

President Bush yesterday offered a blueprint for slowing the growth of federal spending, as the White House and its Republican allies in Congress accelerated the timetable for approving the broad cut in personal income taxes that is the core of the president's legislative agenda.

The \$1.96 trillion budget outline that Bush delivered to Congress increases spending on education, the military and medical research, while creating room for the tax cut by trimming funds for 10 federal agencies. The plan also proposes greater reliance on the private sector and would shift powers to the states, subtly injecting the government with a more conservative flavor.

The House Ways and Means Committee will vote today on the largest component of the tax plan - the \$958 billion reduction in income taxes. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert said the measure should reach the House floor for a vote next week.

Reprinted from the Washington Post

Editorials on the Bush budget proposal:

Arizona Daily Star: "Presented the country with a budget that appears to be based on government moderation" (3/1).

Allentown Morning Call: "He set the tone for getting things done" (3/1).

Baltimore Sun: "Bush's honeymoon may not last much longer" (3/1).

Burlington Free Press: "His tax cut plan ... grants too much tax relief to the wealthiest Americans" (3/1).

Boston Herald: "Bush ... might in the end be the president who strikes a balance between needs and wants" (3/1).

Charlotte Observer: "The immediate surpluses justify a tax cut, but a moderate approach is more sensible" (3/1).

Denver Post: "Bush went overboard in urging abolition of the estate tax" (3/1).

Detroit News: "The president's tax relief program should be adopted -- to keep the revenues out of the hands of congressional spenders" (3/1).

Dallas Morning News: "Bush's budget will get intense congressional scrutiny and tweaking. But in the end, Congress must demonstrate the courage to rein in the partisan excesses that feed federal government inefficiency and waste at taxpayer expense" (3/1).

Greenville News: "he has offered the nation a fundamentally sound plan" (2/28).

Idaho Statesman: "Certainly, there is room for fine tuning on Bush's budget. But his overall goals are worthy of the generous applause he received" (3/1).

Miami Herald: "Tax-cut needs restraint" (3/1).

Mobile Register: "Far from Draconian, it nevertheless puts responsible limits on spending for the first time in three years" (3/1).

Manchester Union Leader: "We think the tax plan President Bush offered Tuesday night is a good start" (3/1).

New York Times: "The return of fuzzy math" (3/1).

Philadelphia Daily News: "His budget proposal has much going for it. ... But it also had the tones, sadly, of Ronald Reagan on taxes" (3/1).

Palm Beach Post: "The numbers, however, don't add up" (3/1).

Ventura County Star: "Here is a man wanting to do right" (3/1).

Waco Tribune-Herald: "Any tax cuts should be considered a dividend for actually reducing debt. Without debt reduction, Washington has no business reducing its revenue stream" (3/1).

Worcester Telegram and Gazette: "If the president succeeds in moving the debate beyond the rhetoric of partisanship and class warfare that has prevailed to date, budget sanity may indeed be within our grasp" (2/28).

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Today in History

1781 - In America, the Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation.

1790 - The U.S. Congress authorized the first U.S. census.

1803 - Ohio became the 17th U.S. state.

1845 - U.S. President Tyler signed the congressional resolution to annex the Republic of Texas.

1867 - Nebraska became the 37th U.S. state.

1950 - Klaus Fuchs was convicted of giving U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.

1954 - Five U.S. congressmen were wounded when four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the gallery of the U.S. House of Representatives.

1971 - A bomb exploded in a restroom in the Senate wing of the U.S. Capitol. There were no injuries. A U.S. group protesting the Vietnam War claimed responsibility.

1974 - Seven people were indicted in connection with the Watergate break-in. The charge was conspiring to obstruct justice.

1993 - The U.S. government announced that the number of food stamp recipients had reached a record number of 26.6 million.

From The History of Today

**The Richard Pombo
Radio Show has moved**

**It will now be on
Wednesday mornings
at 7:00am on 1360 AM**

Political Tidbits cont.

Study: Gore would not have won on recount

Former vice president Al Gore would not have picked up many new votes in Miami-Dade County - and might have lost ground in the county - if the hand count of ballots that he requested had been completed, according to an independent study done for USA TODAY, *The Miami Herald* and Knight Ridder Newspapers. Gore would have had a net gain of 49 votes if the most-lenient standard - counting even faintly dimpled chads - had been used, the study found. If the standard had been more stringent, George W. Bush probably would have gained votes.

Reprinted from the USA Today

Carter calls Clinton "Disgraceful"

"I think President Clinton made one of his most serious mistakes in the way he handled the pardon situation the last few hours he was in office," (former President) Carter said during a speech at Georgia Southwestern State University. ... Of the Rich pardon, Carter said: 'I don't think there is any doubt that some of the factors in his pardon were attributable to his large gifts. In my opinion, that was disgraceful.'

Reprinted from the Associated Press

Oops ... wrong number

"Interior Secretary Gale Norton's parents, Dale and Jackie Norton, were at home in Wichita, Kan., the other night when the telephone rang. It was the Wilderness Society calling, one of a number of environmental organizations to which the couple have belonged. The society's representative pointed out how important the couple's renewal was at this time, and just how necessary their financial contribution was to assist in 'the fight against Bush/Norton.' At which point Mr. and Mrs. Norton politely informed the caller that they were speaking to the parents of the new secretary of the Department of the Interior. 'Oh,' came the reply. 'Well, can we count on you to renew your membership anyway?'"

Reprinted from John McCaslin's "Inside the Beltway,"

Weekly Quote

"Silly talk about how much people will 'receive' from a tax cut ignores the fact that they are receiving nothing. They are simply keeping money that they earned."

- Columnist Thomas Sowell

Wordsmith

pol-i-ti-cian

Pronunciation: "pă-l&-
'ti-sh&n

Function: *noun*

Date: 1589

1 : a person experienced in the art or science of government; *especially* : one actively engaged in conducting the business of a government

2 a : a person engaged in party politics as a profession
b : a person primarily interested in political office for selfish or other narrow usually short-sighted reasons

Reprinted from the Merriam-Webster Online

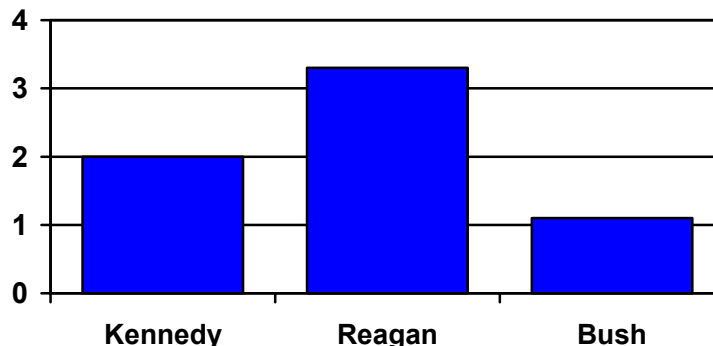
By the Numbers

Is the Bush Tax Plan Too Large?

Not by Kennedy and Reagan Standards

According to an analysis by the National Taxpayers Union, both the Kennedy and Reagan tax relief proposals -- as an average of gross domestic product -- were larger than the tax plan proposed by President George W. Bush.

Tax Cut Proposals as Percentage of GDP



Source: National Taxpayer Union calculations.

With a \$5.6 trillion tax surplus, the Bush tax relief proposal is not unreasonable. In fact, Congress should enact tax relief significantly higher than the \$1.6 trillion proposed by President Bush.